



NOAA
FISHERIES

10.0 General Overview of Westcoast Tuna Fisheries: Russ Vetter

A. Historic fishery, largest in US, was for tropical tunas (yellowfin, bigeye, skipjack. Business infrastructure is still present, but processing infrastructure is gone. US still highly involved in tropical tuna via IATTC and WCPFC.

B. Recreational Tuna Fishing highly important both in US waters and via long-range CPFV (commercial passenger fishing vessels) and private boats. Fishery targets northern albacore, bluefin and yellowfin along with mahi, wahoo and yellowtail.

C. Primary west coast tuna fisheries now focus on northern albacore, *Thunnus alalunga*, both US and Canada are involved. \$40 M healthy fishery but under the NMFS radar?

D. Primary methods of fishing include: pole and line fishing (bait) and trolling of artificial jigs (jig boats). Both are deemed well managed, low bycatch, and sustainable and have achieved MSC certification.

E. Great changes have occurred in fish handling and market value, most landings occur in northern ports.

G. In the context of this review on Data and Data Management, much of the life history and hence access to fishery dependent and independent data is in other parts of the world, primarily Asia.





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10.0 General Overview of Strengths and Challenges for Northern Albacore Research and Monitoring: Russ Vetter

Strengths:

- 1. healthy fishery**
- 2. clean fishery**
- 3. valuable and desirable fishery**
- 4. forward thinking industry**

Challenges:

- 1. NMFS research support continues to weaken**
- 2. US Regulatory Agencies are a weak advocate for US interests.**



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